

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 MCE-00 ACDA-12 EB-08 OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00
/100 W

-----004361 172041Z /63

P R 171833Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8625
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 09070

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GW, US, TU
SUBJECT: ECEVIT VISIT TO BONN

REFS: (A) ANKARA 3718; (B) STATE 123896;
(C) BONN 8473; (D) BONN 8842 (ALL NOTAL)

1. ON MAY 17, FOREIGN OFFICE DIRECTOR OF MEDITERRANEAN
AFFAIRS (HEIBACH) BRIEFED US ON THE MAY 10-13 ECEVIT
VISIT. FOLLOWING ARE KEY POINTS MADE BY HEIBACH.

2. CYPRUS: HEIBACH BRIEFED US ALONG THE LINES OF
REFTELS STRESSING THE GERMAN IMPRESSION THAT ECEVIT
WAS NOW SERIOUS ABOUT GREEK-TURKISH RECONCILIATION
AND WILLING TO MAKE CONCESSIONS ON CYPRUS. HE ADDED
THAT ECEVIT HAD INITIALLY BEEN UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT
THE FRG PROPOSAL THAT HE SHOW FLEXIBILITY ON VAROSHA.
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HE HAD, HOWEVER, EVENTUALLY BEEN PERSUADED OF ITS
MERITS AND HAD TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE TURKS "WOULD
LEAVE THE POLITICAL FRAMEWORK FOR VAROSHA OPEN FOR
NEGOTIATION." THIS WAS SEEN AS A VERY SIGNIFICANT
STEP BY THE GERMANS. HEIBACH SAID THE FOREIGN OFFICE
INTERPRETED THIS AND OTHER STATEMENTS MADE BY ECEVIT
DURING THE VISIT TO MEAN THAT ANKARA WAS PREPARED,

WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS, TO RETURN ALL OF VAROSHA TO THE GREEKS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS A GERMAN INTERPRETATION AND ECEVIT HAD NOT SPECIFICALLY SAID THIS.

3. POSSIBLE ECEVIT-CARAMANLIS SUMMIT: SCHMIDT HAD TOLD ECEVIT OF CARAMANLIS' WILLINGNESS TO MEET HIM ON THE MARGINS OF THE WASHINGTON NATO SUMMIT (REFTEL C). IN RESPONSE, ECEVIT HAD EXPRESSED HIS READINESS TO ATTEND SUCH A MEETING OR, INDEED, TO MEET CARAMANLIS ANYWHERE AT ANY TIME. HEIBACH SAID THE FRG WOULD NOT FOLLOW UP ON THIS BUT WILL LEAVE THE TWO PARTIES TO WORK OUT THE MODALITIES OF A PROSPECTIVE MEETING.

4. NATO: AS NOTED REFTELS, ECEVIT SAID HE WOULD REMAIN IN NATO. IN HIS MEETINGS WITH SCHMIDT AND DEFENSE MINISTER APEL AND IN PRESS BRIEFINGS, ECEVIT DEFINED HIS "NEW DEFENSE CONCEPT" AS AN EFFORT TO MEET THE NEEDS OF DETENTE AND THE SITUATION CREATED BY THE US EMBARGO. HE SAID HE WOULD SEEK TO MAKE TURKEY LESS DEPENDENT ON NATO BY INCREASING DOMESTIC ARMS PRODUCTION AND DIVERSIFYING TURKEY'S SOURCES OF ARMS. (THE GERMANS ASSUME THIS INCLUDES THE SOVIET UNION WHILE THE TURKISH EMBASSY HERE SAYS ECEVIT EXCLUDED ARMS PURCHASES FROM MOSCOW.) ECEVIT CONFIDENTIAL

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SAID FURTHER THAT HE WOULD SEEK TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES; AGAIN, HE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTION THE SOVIET UNION THOUGH HE SEEMINGLY INCLUDED THEM IN THIS REFERENCE. ECEVIT EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD NOT MAKE ANY RASH MOVES THAT WOULD UPSET THE STRATEGIC BALANCE OR BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH TURKEY'S CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP IN NATO. HE NOTED THAT TURKEY WAS AWARE OF ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO THE WESTERN ALLIANCE.

5. HEIBACH EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT A FINAL CONGRESSIONAL VOTE AGAINST LIFTING THE EMBARGO MIGHT PUSH ECEVIT TO LOOSEN FURTHER TURKEY'S TIES TO NATO. HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT NEITHER THE CHANCELLOR NOR THE FOREIGN OFFICE BELIEVES THAT TURKEY IS REORIENTATING ITS POLICY TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION.

6. MILITARY CO-PRODUCTION WITH THE FRG: IN HIS MEETING WITH APEL, ECEVIT HAD SUGGESTED THAT TURKEY AND GERMANY EXPAND THEIR CO-PRODUCTION OF ARMAMENTS. APEL HAD NOT REPLIED BUT

SCHMIDT, IN A

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/100 W

-----004331 172040Z /63

P R 171833Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8626
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 09070

LATER MEETING, HAD EXPRESSED RESERVE AT THIS SUGGESTION.
HEIBACH SAID NEITHER THE FOREIGN OFFICE NOR THE
DEFENSE MINISTRY IS INCLINED TO GO ALONG WITH ECEVIT'S
PROPOSAL. HE EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT FRG FIRMS WOULD BE
INTERESTED IN INCREASING CO-PRODUCTION ARRANGEMENTS
AND NOTED THAT WHAT MINIMAL TURKISH FINANCIAL
RESOURCES EXISTED WOULD BE BETTER USED FOR NON-
MILITARY PURPOSES.

7. HEIBACH SAID THAT THE FRG HAD NOT MADE ANY
COMMITMENTS TO ECEVIT TO INCREASE MILITARY AID TO
TURKEY. HE TERMED INACCURATE PRESS REPORTS HERE
THAT THE DM 100 MILLION AID PACKAGE ANNOUNCED DURING THE
VISIT (SEPTEL) WAS OF MILITARY VALUE. HE SAID THE
AGREEMENT STIPULATES THAT THE MONEY CANNOT BE USED FOR
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MILITARY PURCHASES. HE SAID SCHMIDT HAD SPECIFICALLY TOLD ECEVIT THAT THE FRG WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO MAKE UP THE DECLINE IN US MILITARY AID.

8. HEIBACH SAID THE TURKS HAD RAISED THE QUESTION OF IMPLEMENTING THE TWO-YEAR OLD AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE UNDER WHICH THEY WOULD PURCHASE DM 1.2 BILLION OF GERMAN WEAPONS (MILAN, LEOPARDS, ETC.) THIS MILITARY AID PACKAGE REMAINS IN LIMBO BECAUSE OF TURKISH INABILITY TO PROVIDE PAYMENT GUARANTEES TO GERMAN FIRMS FOR DM 640 MILLION OF THE SUM (THE GERMANS ARE PREPARED TO COVER DM 560 MILLION OF THE TRANSACTIONS BY GERMAN FIRMS WITH HERMES GUARANTEES.) THE TURKS ASKED THE GERMANS TO EXTEND THEIR HERMES GUARANTEES TO COVER THE ENTIRE PACKAGE BUT THE FRG REMAINS RELUCTANT TO DO SO.

9. US BASES IN TURKEY: ECEVIT HAD NOT SPOKEN TO THE SUBJECT BUT HEIBACH SAID THE FOREIGN OFFICE IS CONVINCED THAT HE WILL CLOSE THE BASES IF THE EMBARGO IS NOT LIFTED.
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